

CHAPTER 2000

COMMAND

Northwest Area Contingency Plan

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2000 COMMAND

2100 Command Structure – Unified Command Organization

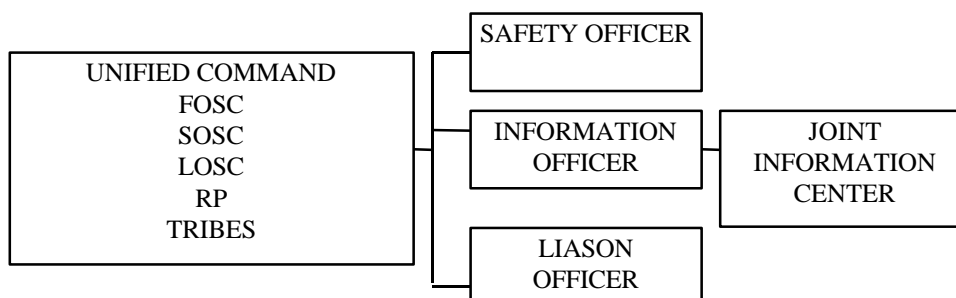
Policy Statement

It is the policy of Northwest Area Committee to manage spill incidents according to the following principles:

- Incident Command System - The signatory agencies will use the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS) model Incident Command System (ICS)
- Unified Command - When a federal or state agency arrive on-scene to participate in managing a response action, the agencies will utilize a unified command structure to jointly manage the spill incident. In the unified command, decisions with regard to the response will be made by consensus and documented through a single Incident Action Plan (IAP).
- Tribal or Local Government On-Scene Coordinators - The unified command may incorporate additional tribal or local government on-scene coordinators into the command structure as appropriate.

Organizational charts for the Unified Command & Command Staff and its subordinate units are shown in figures 2000-1 and 2000-2. They serve as examples and are not meant to be all inclusive. The functions of the Unified Command & Command Staff must be accomplished during an incident, however, they can be performed by one individual or can be expanded, as needed, into additional organizational units with appropriate delegation of authority.

Figure 2000-1. Unified Command Staff



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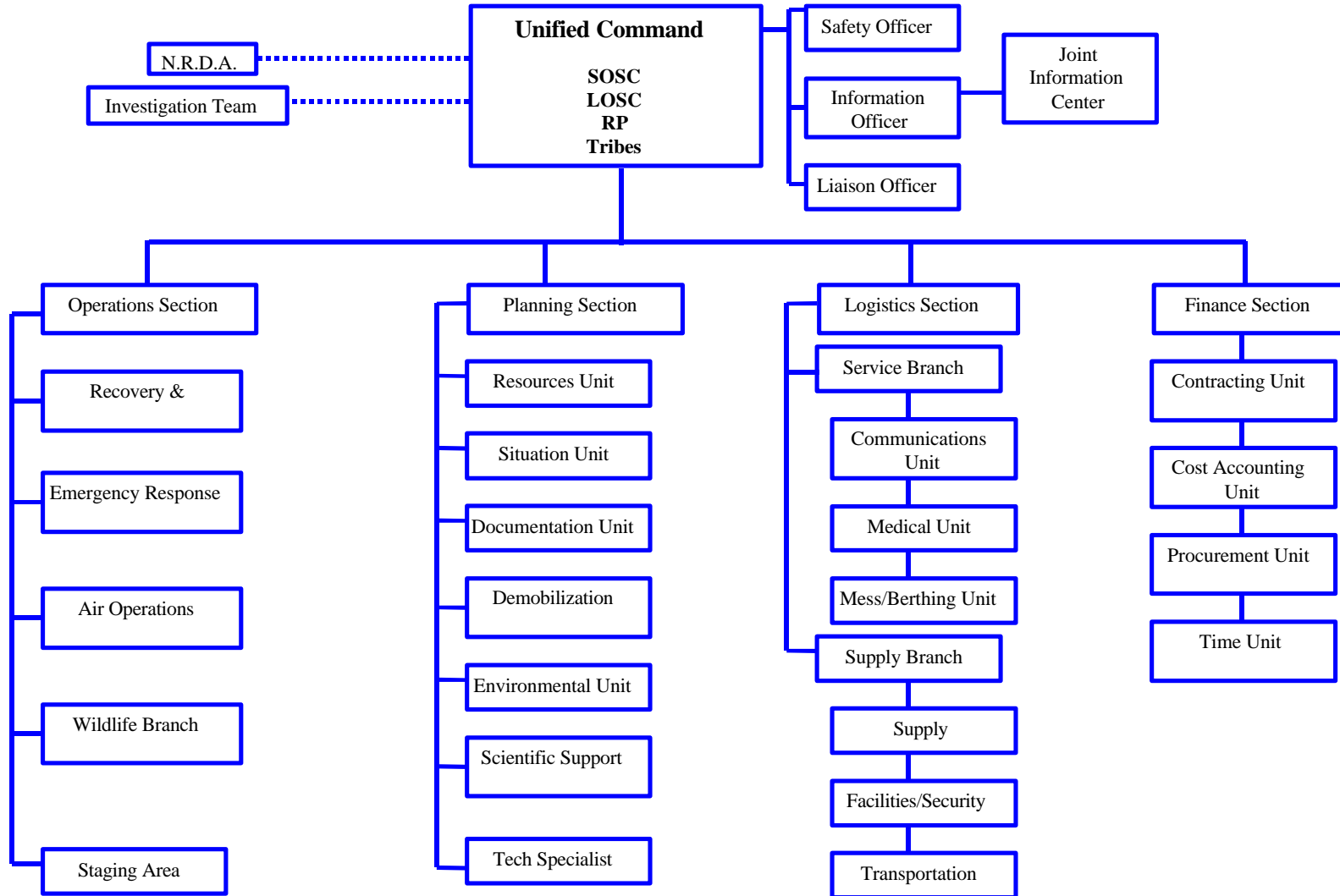
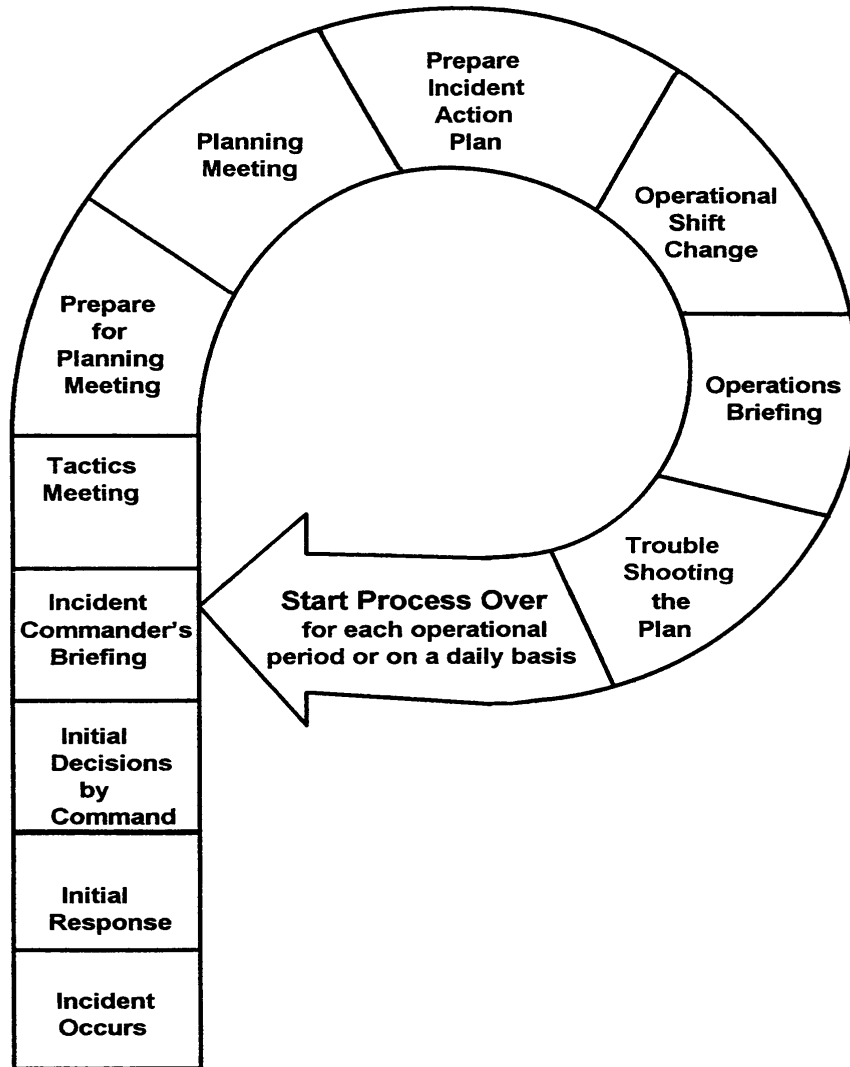


Figure 2000-2. UNIFIED COMMAND ORGANIZATION

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2110 Command and General Staff Planning Cycle Guide



2200 Command/Staff Elements: Roles and Responsibilities

The Area Committee has adopted the NIIMS-based Incident Command System (ICS) as the basic model for operating a coordinated response. Under the Unified Command Structure, the Federal government, state, and responsible party will each provide an On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), who will

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consult each other and share decision-making authority regarding spill response and clean-up management issues. Depending on the circumstances of the incident, a local or tribal entity may also provide an OSC. Together, these OSCs will jointly serve as the Unified Command.

Additional information regarding each of the positions within the Command Staff can be found in the Oil Spill Field Operations Guide (FOG) ICS-OS-420-1 dated June 1996.

2210 Incident Commander

Incident Commanders for oil and hazardous substance discharges will, whenever possible and practical, be organized under the Unified Command Structure which includes, but not limited to:

- The pre-designated Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC).
- The State On Scene Coordinator (OSC).
- The representative of the Responsible Party (RP).
- The local and tribal On Scene Coordinators, as appropriate.

The Unified Command is responsible for the overall management of the incident. The Unified Command directs incident activities including the development and implementation of strategic decisions, approval of the incident action plan, and approves the ordering and releasing of resources.

2220 Information Officer

The Information Officer is responsible for developing and releasing information about the incident to the news media, to incident personnel, and to other appropriate agencies and organizations. The IO will obtain information from technical experts to provide to the press and other interested parties. See section 9610 for the Joint Information Center Manual.

2230 Safety Officer

The Safety Officer is responsible for monitoring and assessing hazardous and unsafe situations and developing measures for assuring personnel safety. Although the Safety Officer may exercise emergency authority to stop or prevent unsafe acts when immediate action is required, the Safety Officer will attempt to correct unsafe acts or conditions through the regular line of authority. The Safety Officer maintains awareness of active and developing situations, ensures the preparation and implementation of the Site Safety

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Plan, and includes safety messages in each Incident Action Plan.

2240 Liaison Officer

Incidents that are multi-jurisdiction, or have several agencies involved, may require the establishment of the Liaison Officer position on the Command Staff.

The liaison officer has the following responsibilities:

- Serve as the initial point of contact for participating federal, state, and local agencies with a vested interest in the response.
- Maintain a spill response summary distribution list for public and private entities requesting spill response status reports.
- Receive and coordinate all calls from public and private entities offering assistance or requesting information.
- Identify public and private concerns related to the status and effectiveness of the spill response.

2250 Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

NRDA involves identifying the type and degree of impacts to public biological and cultural resources in order to assist in restoring those resources. NRDA may involve a range of field surveys and studies used to develop a monetary damage claim, or may involve immediately developing a restoration plan with the responsible party. NRDA activities for small spills typically involve simplified assessment methods and minimal field data collection.

Given that the goals of NRDA are outside the sphere of most emergency spill response actions, NRDA activities generally do not occur within the structure, processes, and control of the Incident Command System. However, particularly in the early phases of a spill response, many NRDA activities overlap with environmental assessment performed for the sake of spill response. Because NRDA is carried out by natural resource trustee agencies and/or their contractors, personnel limitations may require staff to perform NRDA and response activities simultaneously. Therefore, NRDA staff should remain coordinated with the spill response organization, and need to work directly with the Unified Command, Environmental Unit, Wildfire Rescue/Rehabilitation Branch and the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator to resolve any problems or address areas of overlap. While NRDA resource

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requirements and costs may fall outside the responsibility of the Logistics and Finance sections, coordination is again important.

2260 Incident Investigation

Investigators from federal and state agencies will not normally be a part of the Unified Command. While personnel may report to individuals that are part of the UC, the investigators should be separate so as not to introduce polarizing forces into the Unified Command system.

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